

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/815,313

Applicant(s)

ABER ET AL.

Examiner

Christopher R. Buchanan

Art Unit

3627

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to RCE filed 2/12/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-7 and 9-17.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some\*   c) ☐ None   of the:
  1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached  
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☒ Other The Drawings submitted  
7/1/2002 are accepted.

F2  
5/6/07

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Shelley Beckstrand on May 1, 2007.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 1, line 51, the terminology "said negative" was changed to --a negative--.

In claim 1, line 55, the terminology "said positive" was changed to --a positive--.

In claim 11, line 51, the terminology "said negative" was changed to --a negative--.

In claim 11, line 55, the terminology "said positive" was changed to --a positive--.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

3. Claims 1-7 and 9-17 are allowed.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art, Barnes et al. (US 5,970,475), teaches an electronic procurement system and method for trading partners wherein a purchaser (individual employee) submits a requisition for goods or services to a procurement system (enterprise accounting and catalog system), the procurement system (enterprise accounting and catalog system) preparing and submitting a purchase order to a supplier system (vendor), the supplier system (vendor) submitting to the procurement system (enterprise accounting and catalog system), and a confirmation request sent to the purchaser (individual employee creating the original order).

Barnes lacks the teaching sending a plurality of confirmation requests to the individual employee wherein each request specifies that each invoice pertains to an item that is subject selectively to negative confirmation and positive confirmation, a negative confirmation processing for a first confirmation request, and a positive confirmation processing for a second confirmation request.

The limitations lacking in the prior art, in combination with the other limitations clearly claimed for patent, are novel and unobvious.

The foreign prior art, Branning (GB 2,082,814 A), teaches a portable printing and computing device that is capable of retrieving recorded information, receiving new information, computing charges, and printing an invoice.

Branning lacks the teaching sending a plurality of confirmation requests to the individual employee wherein each request specifies that each invoice pertains to an item that is subject selectively to negative confirmation and positive confirmation, a negative confirmation processing for a first confirmation request, and a positive confirmation processing for a second confirmation request.

The limitations lacking in the prior art, in combination with the other limitations clearly claimed for patent, are novel and unobvious.

The non-patent literature, Baron et al. article, teaches using "intelligent catalogs" for business to business procurement activities that enable users to search dynamically updated databases of product data for desired goods.

The Baron et al. article lacks the teaching sending a plurality of confirmation requests to the individual employee wherein each request specifies that each invoice pertains to an item that is subject selectively to negative confirmation and positive confirmation, a negative confirmation processing for a first confirmation request, and a positive confirmation processing for a second confirmation request.

The limitations lacking in the prior art, in combination with the other limitations clearly claimed for patent, are novel and unobvious.

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5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher R. Buchanan whose telephone number is 571-272-8134. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. 9:00am - 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ryan Zeender can be reached on 571-272-6790. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

CB

  
F. RYAN ZEENDER  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER